

cellent experimental laboratories it is likely that some of the phases of his investigation might have been more thoroughly performed.

The book is beautifully written, logical, and with adequate consideration of work performed by others. It can be read with benefit by internists, psychiatrists, orthopedists, gastroenterologists, and others. It is hoped that Dr. Friedman can continue with this excellent work.

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**PSYCHOPATHOLOGY, A Survey of Modern Approaches.** By J. Ernest Nicole, O.B.E. Fourth Edition. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore. Price \$4.75.

This small volume is described by the author as a handbook "designed to provide a general survey of the views of different schools [of psychopathology] of today," and "a guide to the many modern approaches rather than a textbook of any one." Any method of investigating the psychological nature and causation of insanity is deemed worthy of consideration if it offers hope of shedding light on such problems.

Although the book is not divided into parts, its content may be grouped roughly under four headings. The first portion is devoted to a summary of the systems of Prince, Freud, Adler, Jung, Rivers, Kempf and the Behaviorists. There are frequent brief digressions to indicate how the various schools at times meet on common ground, and at others diverge. These efforts do much to diminish the feelings of perplexity and confusion engendered by such condensed reviews.

The second portion deals with contributions from the field of anatomy, physiology, endocrinology, ethnology, sociology, psychobiology and psychology. With full recognition of the extreme difficulty of correlating these data, an endeavor is made to point out the need of incorporating pertinent contributions from these disciplines, and to indicate their probable significance to psychopathology.

The third portion deals with the application of psychopathology, not only to medicine, but to law, education, industry, sociology, art and religion. It emphasizes the value of psychopathology in furthering understanding in these fields. How the premature and too facile application of the limited present-day knowledge may lead to absurdities is indicated.

The fourth and last portion deals with three topics, which the author feels deserve more detailed consideration, namely, the concept of the ego in psychiatry, the herd-instinct, and type psychology. These three chapters represent an extension of the author's earlier attempt to collate the various schools of thought under discussion, and are sufficiently stimulating to make one wish he had devoted more space to this aspect of the book. Finally, a very valuable and rather extensive bibliography, which is limited to publications available in English, is included.

The value of this compendium does not lie in the revelation of startling novelties or discoveries, but rather in a reasonably successful attempt to bring order out of a great deal of confusion. It is recommended not only to physicians, but to members of other professions in which the recognition and management of personality problems is important.

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**PRACTICAL X-RAY TREATMENT.** By Arthur W. Erskine, M.D. Third Edition, The Bruce Publishing Company. 1947.

This small manual on 155 pages, with 20 illustrations, contains much practical information on the elementary principles of x-ray treatment and especially elementary x-ray physics. For that reason it can be recommended to most medical students and all dermatologists. Owing to Doctor Erskine's eminence in the field of Radiology, it is already in the

libraries of most radiologists. The text is clear but rather cursory, especially in connection with lesions requiring high voltage irradiation. The illustrations are somewhat antiquated, notably figure 15, and should be revised in subsequent editions. Some of the paragraphs are not visibly complete, for example the fourth paragraph on page 132. The reader wonders what happened to several hundred cases of cancer of the lip!

With these minor criticisms, the book can be recommended to most physicians.

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**DERMATOLOGIC CLUES TO INTERNAL DISEASE.** By Howard T. Behrman, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Dermatology, New York University College of Medicine; Adjunct Dermatologist, Mount Sinai Hospital and Beth Israel Hospital; Associate Dermatologist, Hillside Hospital; Diplomate of the American Board of Dermatology and Syphilology; Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology and Syphilology. 1947. Grune & Stratton, Inc. Price \$5.00.

The author published this small book because he felt that there was a need for the correlation of skin manifestations with visceral disease. Accordingly, for some 165 pages he has listed various conditions alphabetically by either a cutaneous or visceral title and has added a long or short note about each. There are many illustrations which on the whole are good. There is no table of contents and no index, unfortunate omissions which would make it unsuitable as a reference book even if the subject matter were more enlightening. Inclusion of them also would make unnecessary the fairly elaborate system of cross reference which sometimes becomes ridiculous. For example, on pages 158 and 159 ten conditions are named in large type; and for seven of these there is nothing for the reader except a reference to another page; which gives one a feeling of futility. There is no constancy about the method of putting a condition into its alphabetical place. The reviewer does not know why some diseases of the pituitary gland should be described under endocrine disorders and others given another place in the alphabet: For instance, acromegaly comes under "A" and Cushing's syndrome under "C." (Could it not be classified under "B"—for basophile adenoma?) Graves' disease is hidden under the sub-classification of hyperfunction of the thyroid gland, but Addison's disease occupies a niche of its own after atherosclerosis.

The author states that he has not included any diseases adequately described in standard texts. The reviewer believes that the subject matter which is included falls into this category.

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**HYPNOTISM TODAY.** By Leslie M. Lecron, B.A., and Jean Bordeaux, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. Foreword by Milton H. Erickson, M.D. 1947. Grune & Stratton, New York. Price \$4.00.

As a source of information for physicians regarding the phenomena of the hypnotic state this book is amply justified. Written by two lay hypnotists, it presents a relatively conservative treatment of the subject, rich in personal experience and containing many useful hints as to practical procedure. From this standpoint it is of value both to the practitioner of medicine who is not infrequently asked for an opinion regarding the procedure, and to the psychiatrist who may be anxious to gain personal experience in the field.

However, the book is apparently not directed solely to the medical profession. In the hands of the layman, it is probable that too optimistic an attitude toward the therapeutic value of the procedure would be engendered, while the portion of the book dealing with auto-hypnotic technics might well be of danger to certain individuals. Equally, this reviewer must deprecate any publication which prescribes treatment of the functional nervous disorders by others than qualified doctors of medicine.